

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 960

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to designate March 2022 as "Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, breast cancer is among the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5,850 women in Tennessee were diagnosed with breast cancer, and nearly 1,070 died with this malignancy in 2021; and

WHEREAS, triple-negative breast cancer is one of many forms of breast cancer and accounts for approximately fifteen to thirty percent of all diagnosed invasive breast cancer cases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, more than 53,700 new breast cancer cases in 2019 in the United States were triple-negative breast cancer, with higher prevalence among younger women, Black and Hispanic women, women with Type 2 diabetes or carrying excess weight in the abdomen area, and those with BRCA1 mutations; and

WHEREAS, due to its aggressive behavior, triple-negative breast cancer grows quickly and is more likely to have spread at the time it is found and is more likely to come back after treatment than other types of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, people diagnosed with metastatic triple-negative breast cancer have less than a thirty percent chance of surviving past five years; and

WHEREAS, patients with an early diagnosis can often be treated with chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery; however, the limited therapies available specifically addressing the management of triple-negative breast cancer have made treating this disease a challenge for clinicians; and

WHEREAS, recent innovation in targeted therapies has fueled advances in the fight against triple-negative breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that triple-negative breast cancer disease-specific mortality rates are often higher if patients have Medicaid or Medicare or are lower in socioeconomic status, and compared with non-Hispanic white women, Black women are forty-eight percent less likely to receive guideline-adherent care and have an approximate two-fold higher mortality incidence, resulting in a disproportionately higher risk of death from triple-negative breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, advances in breast cancer screening and treatment over the last few decades have reduced the overall breast cancer mortality rate, yet the disproportionate impact of triple-negative breast cancer on racial and ethnic minority communities raises considerations about the underlying determinants driving the disparities; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to promote triple-negative breast cancer education, raise awareness about the disease-related disparities, and tackle health disparities within health care delivery, such as inadequate access to screening, diagnostic testing, and care, to improve early detection and survival; and

WHEREAS, a courageous young wife and mother of two children, Denise Upchurch of Gallatin, lost her battle with cancer in December 2015; never letting the disease define who she was, Mrs. Upchurch was a true inspiration to everyone who met her; and

WHEREAS, it would be a most fitting tribute to the legacy of Denise Upchurch to designate the month of March 2022 as "Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the month of March 2022 as "Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Awareness Month" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.